



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 0943 8889

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84809438889

September 15, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [20-0593](#) At Home in Tacoma Project Update

At approximately 12:04 p.m., Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office, introduced Elliot Barnett, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services, and Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development. Together, they presented the Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS) update, including an overview of the four objectives of the AHAS, impacts of COVID-19 on housing in Tacoma, updates to each of the four objectives, Tacoma's housing growth strategy, AHAS actions, the Home in Tacoma project, the Single Family Residence Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation Loan program, affordable housing Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for 2020, and eligible projects for NOFA.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of building detached accessory dwelling units (DADU), down payment assistance, resources for senior citizens, what affordability means for different communities, the median income and how it is determined, land use and redlining, how projects are chosen and who does the work for the Rehab program, revolving loans for projects, what qualifies as a "shovel ready" project, the process for choosing areas in the City to add housing, and removing barriers to building DADUs.

2. [20-0594](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 1:19 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided an update on the air quality emergency response and the temporary micro-shelter site; and introduced Erica Azcueta, Program Manager, NCS, and Heather Moss, Director of Human Services, Pierce County. Together, they presented the homelessness response update, including an update on the homeless strategy, the annual point in time count for Pierce County; encampment response results; shelter inventory and exits to housing; temporary shelter regulations; stability site transition; and goals to expand shelter capacity.

Discussion ensued regarding helping residents reach the air quality emergency response site, outreach to encampments, the emergency shelter timeline and process, the safe parking concept, unmanaged encampments, shelter capacity, fluctuating homelessness rates due to the pandemic, the accuracy of the point in time count, the Homeless Outreach Team, and connecting with other service providers and non-profit organizations not funded by the City.

4. [20-0596](#) Commercial Airport Coordination Commission Letter Discussion

Item No. 4 was addressed before Item No. 3.

At approximately 2:19 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, provided an update on a letter to the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission regarding a new primary commercial aviation facility in Washington, including background, timeline, impacts, concerns, and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding alternative sites and site metrics.

3. [20-0595](#) Systems Transformation Update

At approximately 2:29, City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, community feedback to 21CP Solutions, the systems transformation update table, next steps timeline, draft transformation timeline, City of Tacoma actions, getting to organizational transformation, utilizing the Tacoma Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) cohort in organizational transformation efforts, GARE cohort process and deliverables, and administrative review timeline of the City, the path forward, and Council leadership in transformation.

Ms. Medlen presented a proposal for a mortgage relief and foreclosure

prevention focus program to complement the rental assistance program, including background, proposed funding sources, partnership with Pierce County, the difference between City funds and County funds, and using funds to target Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, and seniors.

Discussion ensued regarding the GARE cohort, next steps, the external process versus the internal process, and utilizing community and staff input.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to have the City Council sign the letter to the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [20-0597](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, September 10, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated that there will be two ceremonials on tonight's agenda, one proclaiming September 12-20, 2020, as Welcoming Week, and one proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2020, as Hispanic Heritage Month. She further stated there are no expected changes to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Council Prepare City Manager Review

Mayor Woodards stated that this Executive Session will be rescheduled due to time constraints.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk